(a) whether Government proposes to extend the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) all over the country;

(b) if so, whether ground work to extend the scheme has been completed;

(c) the fund earmarked for the purpose;

(d) the number of additional families likely to be covered under NREGS;

(e) whether any suggestion/request has come from States in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government of India has decided to extend NREGS to all the remaining rural districts in the country, including the Union Territories with effect from 1.4.2008. A notification to this effect was issued on 28.9.2007. A sum of Rs. 159.44 crore have been released to the Phase III districts (except districts of Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat) for making preparatory arrangements like IEC, printing and procurement of statutory documents, training of officials and non-officials and preparation of perspective plans.

(c) NREGA is demand driven and not an allocation based programme. A National Employment Guarantee Fund has been established for providing funds to the States for implementation of the Act. For the current financial year, a budget provision of Rs. 12,000 crores was made for implementation of the Act. Provisions are made in the budget for implementation of the Act on the basis of funds utilized by the States and also on the basis of demand for work in the previous year.

(d) NREGA is demand driven. Adult members of any rural household may apply for employment under the Act subject to an over-all ceiling of 100 days of employment in a financial year per household. Therefore, no targets can be fixed for providing employment under the Act.

(e) and (f) Suggestions/requests had been received from various States for coverage of selected districts under NREGA. However, Government has decided to extend NREGA to all the remaining rural districts in the country including Union Territories with effect from 1.4.2008.

NREG programme in U.P.

*287. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that flagship scheme National Rural Employment Guarantee (NREG) programme has been accorded less priority by the present Uttar Pradesh Government;

(b) whether Government is also aware that there is no impact of this programme in eastern Uttar Pradesh; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH) (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. NREGA was implemented in 22 districts of Uttar Pradesh with effect from 2.2.2006 in the first phase. The Act was extended to 17 additional districts in the State with effect from 15.5.2007 in its second phase. The remaining rural districts have been selected for next phase to be implemented with effect from 1.4.2008. Year-wise performance of Uttar Pradesh under NREGA is given below.

Year	No. of districts covered	No. of Households demanded Employment	No. of households provided Employment	Total works taken up	No. of works completed	No. of works in progress
2006-07	22	2676261	2573245	75500	42984	32516
2007-08 (up to Oct., 07)	39	2499265	2468934	64865	29863	35002

In the beginning due to State Assembly elections, the progress under NREGA was affected. However, now the progress of NREGA in Uttar Pradesh has picked up. The progress of NREGA in eastern Uttar Pradesh is also in line with the rest of the State.

(c) Does not arise.

Construction of roads in Buxar under PMGSY

*289. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of roads being constructed under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) in the Buxar district of Bihar;

(b) their completion schedule, funds allocated and percentage of completion of work so far;

(c) is there any time and cost overrun;

(d) the details of the roads proposed to be taken in the next financial year;

(e) the proposed time-limit for the completion of Itarhi-Koran Sarai segment;

(f) whether there is any complaint from the public regarding quality of work; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Under Phase I of PMGSY, 4 nos. road works were sanctioned for Buxar district of Bihar and have been completed. Under Phase II, 16 nos. road works were sanctioned out of which 14 have been completed. The details have been given in statement I (*See* below). The details of road works taken up from Phase III onwards have been given in Statement II. (*See* below).

(b) Programme guidelines stipulate that all works should be completed within 12 months from the date of issue of work order. Details of sanctioned cost and physical progress have been given in Statement I & II (*See* below).

(c) There is no cost overrun. There is timed overrun due to Panchayat elections, encroachment, rainy season etc.